

# InSIGHT

Keeping you informed of the latest Koppers Performance Chemicals and Industry News.



Issue 13 - September 2021

## Welcome to the latest edition of our Newsletter.

We have followed our last newsletter quickly as there have been a couple of important developments and news affecting the industry in the last couple of weeks.

So please read on and keep COVID safe as we get closer to easing restrictions in the next few months and of-course the main message is **please get vaccinated**.

### What's in this Issue:

- The Draft 2022 Version of the National Construction Code
- Pro-Timber Framing Support
- Structural Timber Product Identification in Queensland



## The Draft 2022 Version of the National Construction Code - Comment Due Soon

---

*The revised NCC 2022 will be released in late 2022 and will contain new provisions for Energy Efficiency and Condensation in both residential and some other types of construction.*

---

The energy efficiency changes will effectively require that home and multi-unit construction meets 7-star energy efficiency from the current notional 6-star level. This will mean a significant extra cost in constructing new homes and will generally require more insulation, more efficient appliances and higher performing glazing assemblies.

The draft provisions will mean that a home using a suspended timber floor will need the floor to be insulated but also additional measures to reach the required levels. A builder using steel framing will likely require more effective thermal breaks and higher levels of insulation to meet the requirements. The thermal breaks may be used to reduce the effect of thermal bridging, generally across cavities, where the conductivity of the stud means that heat can travel between the outer and inner skins of the construction.

The issue of condensation in buildings is intimately related to thermal efficiency as condensation occurs when moisture is trapped within building spaces under certain environmental conditions which changes depending on the climatic zone.

Additionally, some appliances can cause moisture accumulation in homes and kitchens

and bathrooms can create a lot of moisture containing vapour. Increased thermal efficiency stringency can have the unwanted effect of decreasing air exchange in spaces due to the use of foils, sarking, insulation and other materials designed to reduce heat movement and increase thermal efficiency.

Condensation can lead to the growth of moulds as well as effect the integrity of the structure by causing rot in timber or corrosion in steel. In introducing the increased stringency of energy efficiency, the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has recognised that more refined provisions to prevent condensation issues was required. These broadly include more efficient venting of appliances or spaces and the specification of vapour-permeable membranes where required to ensure that moisture can escape from enclosed spaces.

The ABCB has produced a video explaining the changes

[Explainer - NCC 2022 public comment draft \(stage 2\) - YouTube](#)

The ABCB is seeking comments from all interested parties and detailed information on the proposed NCC changes are available here:

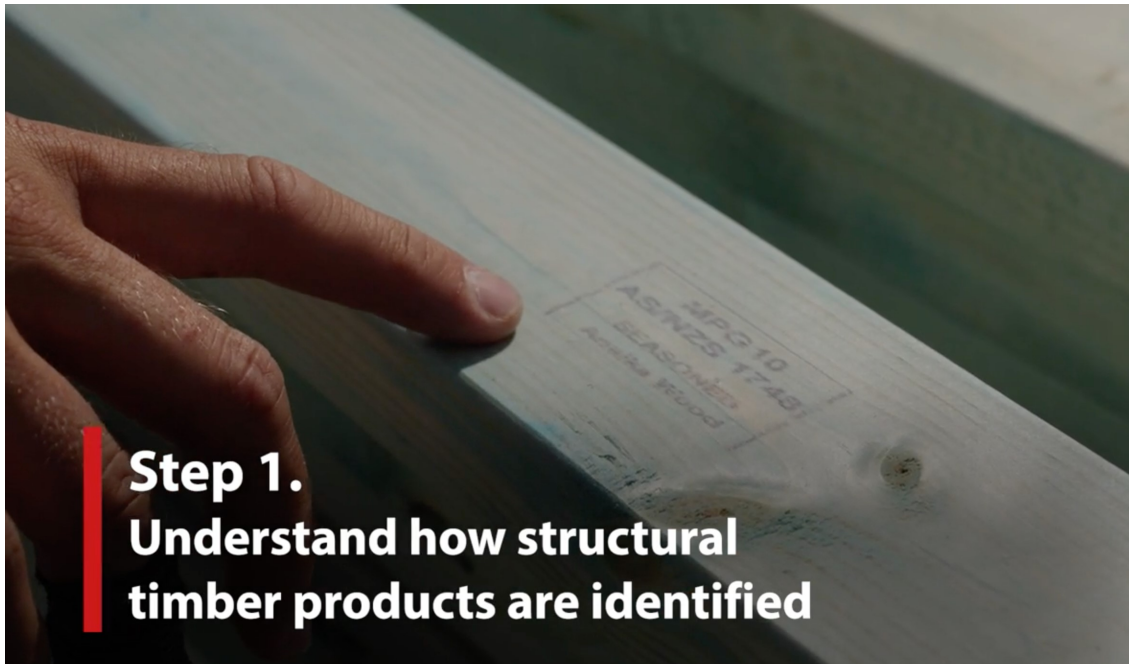
[NCC 2022 public comment draft \(stage 2\) consultation now open | ABCB](#)

**Comment closes on 17 October 2021.**

## Pro-Timber Framing Support

As mentioned in the last newsletter, KPC is supporting an industry group supporting the ongoing use and promotion of timber framing. The group is currently conducting some market research regarding the structural timber framing product category. The group would really value if you could spend 15 minutes completing the below survey link. Your feedback will help inform better communications and potential product improvements. Thank you for your time.

<https://iquestion.i-link.com.au/Q165602/index.php>



## **Step 1. Understand how structural timber products are identified**

### **Structural Timber Product Identification in Queensland**

Fundamental to the building process is the ability to recognise and confirm the suitability of the products to meet the specification used in construction. This is especially important when it comes to structural products such as framing and the many timber products used for this purpose. Also important is the ability to confirm the suitability of preservative treated products where they are fundamental to the performance of structural products, consider a verandah joist where a failure could lead to a serious collapse endangering occupants.

While all states and territories have building regulation requiring the certifier to confirm that complying products have been used, in Queensland there is specific building regulation that widens the onus of responsibility onto the whole supply chain from the manufacturer, supplier, builder and designers etc. In addition, product information on use, application and maintenance must be available. Timber Queensland was approached to consider the production of information to assist timber industry as well as users on identification and traceability of timber products.

A committee was formed from different industry sectors, including Koppers representatives and under the Chairmanship of Kim Harris and guidance of Colin Mackenzie and the Timber Queensland team, two excellent guidance documents have been produced (attached separately) as well as a video. These resources are in principle applicable to all states and territories and we encourage you to read and distribute these documents and apply them to your businesses.

[Timber QLD\\_Codemark\\_Final Draft\\_master.mp4 \(dropbox.com\)](#)

Thanks go to the TQ Team for their great work.

Koppers Performance Chemicals Australia Pty Ltd

Level 5 53 Walker Street North Sydney NSW 2060

Telephone 1800 088 809

[www.kopperspc.com.au](http://www.kopperspc.com.au)



---

*Copyright © 2022 Koppers Performance Chemicals Australia. All rights reserved.*

**Our email address is:**

[kpc.admin@koppers.com.au](mailto:kpc.admin@koppers.com.au)

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).